

Draft Environmental Impact Statement

Navajo Reservoir Operations

Navajo Unit – San Juan River
New Mexico, Colorado, Utah

Volume I



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation

Upper Colorado Region
Western Colorado Area Office
Grand Junction – Durango, Colorado



September 2002

Mission Statements

The mission of the Department of the Interior is to protect and provide access to our Nation's natural and cultural heritage and honor our trust responsibilities to tribes.

The mission of the Bureau of Reclamation is to manage, develop, and protect water and related resources in an environmentally and economically sound manner in the interest of the American Public.

DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

NAVAJO RESERVOIR OPERATIONS

**Navajo Unit – San Juan River
New Mexico, Colorado, Utah**

**Prepared by the U.S. Department of the Interior,
Bureau of Reclamation, Upper Colorado Region, Salt Lake City
in Cooperation with Federal Agencies and Local, State, and Tribal Governments**

This Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for Navajo Reservoir Operations has been prepared in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). It has been prepared by the Department of the Interior through the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) and in cooperation with the following: Bureau of Indian Affairs; Bureau of Land Management; Corps of Engineers; Environmental Protection Agency; Federal Energy Regulatory Commission; Fish and Wildlife Service; National Park Service; Glen Canyon National Recreation Area; Jicarilla Apache Nation; Southern Ute Indian Tribe; Navajo Nation; Ute Mountain Ute Tribe; Colorado Water Conservation Board; New Mexico Department of Game and Fish; New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission; New Mexico Department of Environment; City of Farmington; San Juan Water Commission; and Southwestern Water Conservation District.

The DEIS evaluates the potential impacts of implementing the San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program's *Flow Recommendations for the San Juan River* (Flow Recommendations) (1999) or a reasonable alternative to those recommendations. To accomplish this action, Reclamation would continue to operate Navajo Dam to meet authorized project purposes while modifying reservoir release patterns to meet Flow Recommendations designed to maintain or improve habitat for the razorback sucker and Colorado pikeminnow (formerly Colorado squawfish).

Seven alternatives were evaluated in the DEIS. Most of the alternatives formulated for evaluation are described in term of flow rates representing minimum and maximum limits in cubic feet per second in the range of release rates from Navajo Dam.

For further information regarding this DEIS, contact Mr. Ken Beck, Bureau of Reclamation, Western Colorado Area Office, Southern Division, 835 East Second Avenue, Suite 300, Durango, Colorado 81301; telephone: (970) 385-6558.

Public Comments due: November 4, 2002

Draft Environmental Impact Statement No. _____

Date Filed with EPA: _____

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